

**County:** Dorset

**Site Name:** Bradford Abbas Railway Cutting

**District:** West Dorset

**Status:** Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, as amended.

**Local Planning Authority:** Dorset County Council West Dorset District Council

**National Grid Reference:** ST 592145      **Area:** 1.4 (ha) 3.4 (ac)

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 194      **1:10,000:** ST 51 SE

**Date Notified (Under 1949 Act):** –      **Date of Last Revision:** –

**Date Notified (Under 1981 Act):** 1990      **Date of Last Revision:** –

**Other Information:**

This is a new site listed in the Geological Conservation Review.

**Description and Reasons for Notification:**

An internationally important Middle Jurassic locality comprising the only remaining section in an area where the condensed limestones of the Inferior Oolite were once well exposed and famous for their palaeontology. Many type specimens particularly of molluscan species came from here. The Bradford Fossil Bed section constitutes a reference section for parts of the Aalenian and Bajocian Stages (the *concauum* and *discites* Zones). The Bradford Abbas cutting is the standard section for these internationally applicable time units.